

Bayesian Analysis of Nuclear Energy-Density Functional from Densities

Chengpeng Yu and Kenichi Yoshida

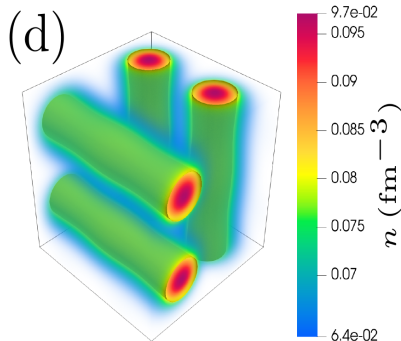
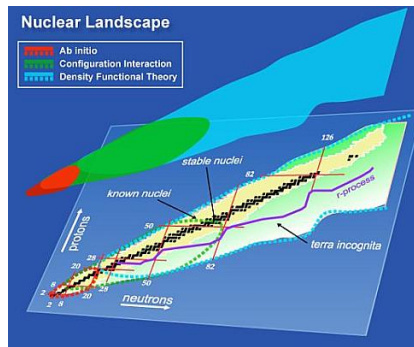
RCNP, The University of Osaka

2026.7.15

Symposium on Nuclear Structure, Reaction, and Astrophysics
(NuSRAP2026)

Background I

Energy-Density Functional (EDF): unified description of finite nuclei and bulk nuclear matter.



Right figure: [2605.28783](#)

Background II

Parameters of EDF, e.g.,

$$e[\rho] = \sum_t \left[(C_{t0}^\rho + C_{tD}^\rho \rho^\gamma) \rho_t^2 + C_t^{\Delta\rho} \rho_t \Delta\rho_t + C_t^\tau \rho_t \tau_t + C_t^{\nabla J} \rho_t \nabla \cdot \mathbf{J}_t + \dots \right], \quad (1)$$

$t = 0, 1$: isoscalar/isovector.

- Fixed by experimental observables using point-like optimization (χ^2 test) e.g.,
 - masses and radii of doubly magic nuclei, fission barriers
 - equation of state for neutron matter
 - ...
- A few Bayesian studies in recent years*

* E.g., [10.1103/PhysRevC.111.014311](https://arxiv.org/abs/10.1103/PhysRevC.111.014311)

Background III

Rapid development of ab initio calculations.

- Project **Quantum Matter Science in the Universe Opened Up by Precise Numerical Calculations**
 - Accurate ab-initio calculation of beyond-10-body quantum many-body systems based on nuclear forces.
- Compare to experiments. . .
 - Access data difficult to access in experiments (e.g., $\rho_n(r)$);
 - Small error bars.

Very interesting to determine EDF parameters from ab initio results. . .



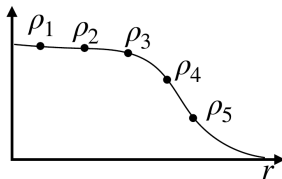
Quantum Matter Science in the
Universe Opened Up
by Precise Numerical Calculations

Purpose

Establish the following framework

① Input:

- $(r_i, \rho_{ni}, \rho_{pi})$ of light nuclei
- Ground state energies E_{tot} .



② Method: Bayesian analysis

③ Output: Skyrme parameters

④ Prediction

- Nuclear matter properties.
- Density profile of heavy nuclei.

Method I

Bayesian analysis:

$$P(\theta, \sigma_\rho, \sigma_E | X, Y) \propto P(X, Y | \theta, \sigma_\rho, \sigma_E) P(\theta, \sigma_\rho, \sigma_E). \quad (2)$$

posterior $\propto$ likelihood $\times$ prior

- θ = (Skyrme parameters), $\dim \theta = 10$,
- σ_ρ, σ_E : noise parameters, explained later
- Input data $X = \{(r_i, \rho_{ni}, \rho_{pi}) | i = 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ for different nuclei,
- Input data $Y = E_{tot}$ for different nuclei.

So far, no ab initio $X \dots$ for the nuclei we want to use. . .

Use $(r_i, \rho_{ni}, \rho_{pi})$ generated by EDF instead.

Method II

Likelihood: density

$$P(X|\theta, \sigma_\rho) = \prod_{(N,Z)} \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_\rho^2} e^{-\frac{\|X-X_\theta\|^2}{2\sigma_\rho^2}}. \quad (3)$$

X_θ : $\rho_{n\theta}(r)$, $\rho_{p\theta}(r)$ predicted by the Skyrme EDF with parameter set θ ,
calculated using the HFBRAD code* (**modified**)

The distance between X and X_θ :

$$\|X - X_\theta\|^2 = \sum_{t=n,p} \left(\frac{\sum_i |\rho_{ti} - \rho_{t\theta}(r_i)| \rho_{ti} r_i^2}{\sum_i \rho_{ti} r_i^2} \right)^2. \quad (4)$$

* See [arxiv nucl-th/0501002](https://arxiv.org/abs/nucl-th/0501002)

Method III

Likelihood: energy

$$P(Y|\theta, \sigma_E) = \prod_{(N,Z)} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_E^2}} e^{-\frac{|Y-Y_\theta|^2}{2\sigma_E^2}}. \quad (5)$$

Method IV

Prior

Uniform prior of $\theta = (C_{t0}^\rho, C_{tD}^\rho, C_t^{\Delta\rho}, C_t^\tau, C_t^{\nabla J}, \gamma)^T$ **does not work!**

- Strongly correlated, bad numerical performance.
- No direct physical interpretation.

Method V

Strategy: choose θ indirectly from **nuclear matter parameters**.
Phenomenological model of nuclear matter

$$E = E_0 + \frac{1}{2}K_0 \left(\frac{\rho - \rho_0}{3\rho_0} \right)^2 + \left[J + L \left(\frac{\rho - \rho_0}{3\rho_0} \right) + \frac{1}{2}K_{\text{sym}} \left(\frac{\rho - \rho_0}{3\rho_0} \right)^2 \right] \left(\frac{\rho_n - \rho_p}{\rho} \right)^2. \quad (6)$$

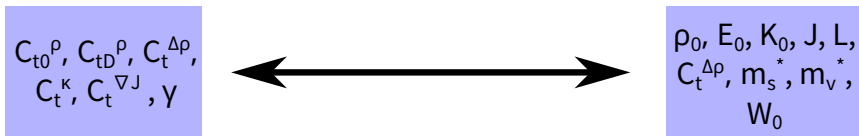
Parameters: ρ_0 , E_0 , K_0 , J , L .

Method VI

Additional parameters:

- **Effective masses** m_s^* , m_v^* .
- **Spin-orbit parameter** W_0 .

One-to-one mapping*:



* See [10.1103/PhysRevC.80.014322](#), [10.1103/PhysRevC.82.024321](#), [10.1103/PhysRevC.111.014311](#).

Method VII

Uniform prior for the nuclear matter parameters*:

- $\rho_0 = 0.150\text{--}0.175 \text{ fm}^{-3}$,
- $E_0 = -16.50\text{--}-15.50 \text{ MeV}$,
- $K_0 = 180\text{--}260 \text{ MeV}$,
- $J = 25.00\text{--}37.00 \text{ MeV}$,
- $L = 10\text{--}120 \text{ MeV}$,
- $C_0^{\Delta\rho} = -120\text{--}$
 $-20 \text{ MeV} \cdot \text{fm}^5$,
- $C_1^{\Delta\rho} = -50\text{--}50 \text{ MeV} \cdot \text{fm}^5$,
- $W_0 = 80.00\text{--}$
 $170.00 \text{ MeV} \cdot \text{fm}^5$,
- $m_0 = (0.70\text{--}1.10)m$,
 $m = 938.92 \text{ MeV}$,
- $m_1 = (0.60\text{--}0.90)m$.

* Follow the suggestion of ([10.1103/PhysRevC.111.014311](https://arxiv.org/abs/10.1103/PhysRevC.111.014311)).

Method VIII

Additional constrain: dimensional analysis of χEFT^* ,

$$\bar{C} = s f_{\pi}^{2(l-1)} \Lambda^{n+l-2} \hbar^m C, \quad (7)$$

$$C = C_{t0}^{\rho}, C_{tD}^{\rho}, C_t^{\Delta\rho}, C_t^{\tau}, C_t^{\nabla J}. \quad (8)$$

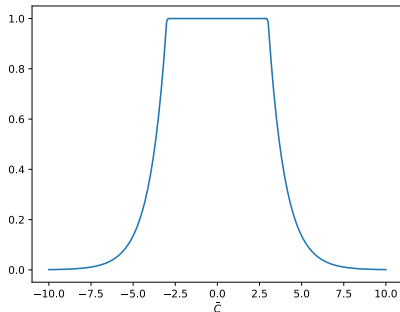
$$f_{\pi} = 93 \text{ MeV}, \Lambda = 687 \text{ MeV}. \quad (9)$$

- $s=1$ if isoscalar else 4
- $l=2+\gamma$ if C_{tD}^{ρ} else 2
- $n=0$ if C_{t0}^{ρ} or C_{tD}^{ρ} else 2
- $m=3$ if C_{t0}^{ρ} , $3+3\gamma$ if C_{tD}^{ρ} else 5

* M. Kortelainen, 2010 [10.1103/PhysRevC.82.011304](https://arxiv.org/abs/10.1103/PhysRevC.82.011304)

Method IX

Couplings in natural units					
	SIII	HFB16	Average	Min.	Max.
C_{00}^{ρ}	-0.4767	-0.7759	-0.7977	-1.2380	-0.4465
C_{10}^{ρ}	1.2076	1.9295	1.7656	-0.9795	4.5761
C_{00}^{σ}	0.7623	0.7509	0.7824	0.2723	1.2616
C_{10}^{σ}	-3.0493	-2.3825	-2.2010	-6.0116	1.9790
C_0^{τ}	0.6059	0.4464	0.5606	-0.0856	2.9421
C_1^{τ}	-1.6726	-0.2048	-0.3626	-2.9469	3.5160
$C_0^{\Delta\rho}$	-0.8597	-0.8702	-0.8765	-1.7491	-0.4636
$C_1^{\Delta\rho}$	0.9301	-0.8998	-0.5531	-15.5202	2.5762
$C_0^{\nabla J}$	-1.2288	-1.4449	-1.2385	-1.6384	-0.8957
$C_1^{\nabla J}$	-1.6384	-1.9265	-1.0875	-2.1846	5.4272
C_0^J	0	1.1300	0.5159	-0.6021	1.4212
C_1^J	0	1.3208	1.6502	-5.0026	3.6049



$$C_{00}^{\rho} < 0, C_{0D}^{\rho} > 0, C_0^{\Delta\rho} < 0, C_t^{\nabla J} < 0$$

(final prior) = (nuclear matter part) $\times$ (χ EDF part)

Method X

Final unknown parameter: σ_ρ, σ_E .

Empirical prior of σ :

$$\sigma_\rho \sim \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_\rho'^2}} e^{-\frac{\sigma_\rho^2}{2\sigma_\rho'^2}}, \quad \sigma_\rho > 0 \quad (10)$$

$$\sigma_E \sim \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_E'^2}} e^{-\frac{\sigma_E^2}{2\sigma_E'^2}}, \quad \sigma_E > 0 \quad (11)$$

$$\sigma_\rho' = 0.1 \times (0.16 \text{ fm}^{-3}), \quad \sigma_E' = 1.00 \text{ MeV} \quad (12)$$

Method XI

10D- θ space, no naive computation of $P(\theta, \sigma_\rho, \sigma_E | X, Y) \dots$

Algorithm: Metropolis-Hastings sampling

- 1 Define an empty sample set $S = \{\}$.
- 2 Choose initial $\theta^{(0)}, \sigma_{\rho,E}^{(0)}$.
- 3 Choose $\theta^{(1)} = \theta^{(0)} + \delta\theta, \delta\theta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, s^2),$
 $\sigma^{(1)} = \sigma_{\rho,E}^{(0)} + \delta\sigma_{\rho,E}, \delta\sigma_{\rho,E} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, s'^2).$
- 4 Compute acceptance rate

$$\alpha = \frac{P(\theta^{(1)}, \sigma_\rho^{(1)}, \sigma_E^{(1)} | X, Y)}{P(\theta^{(0)}, \sigma_\rho^{(0)}, \sigma_E^{(0)} | \rho, E)} \quad (13)$$

Method XII

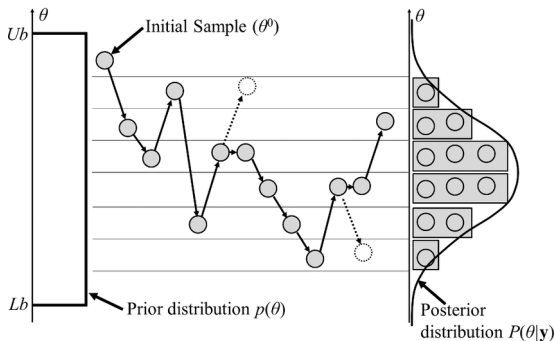
- 5 Define $\alpha' \sim \text{uniform}(0, 1)$. If $\alpha' < \alpha$,
 - add $\left(\theta^{(1)}, \sigma_{\rho, E}^{(1)}, P(\theta^{(1)}, \sigma_{\rho}^{(1)}, \sigma_E^{(1)} | \rho, E)\right)$ to S ;
 - $\theta^{(0)} \leftarrow \theta^{(1)}, \sigma_{\rho, E}^{(0)} \leftarrow \sigma_{\rho, E}^{(1)}$.
- 6 Go to step 3.

Method XIII

Output: Sample set

$$\left\{ \left(\theta^{(k)}, \sigma_{\rho, E}^{(k)}, P(\theta^{(k)}, \sigma_{\rho}^{(k)}, \sigma_E^{(k)} | X, Y) \right) \mid k = 0, 1, 2, \dots \right\} \quad (14)$$

$$P(\theta, \sigma_{\rho}, \sigma_E | X, Y) \propto (\text{density of samples}). \quad (15)$$



Method XIV

Representative parameters

- Maximum A Posteriori (MAP)

$$k_{\text{MAP}} = \operatorname{argmax}_k P(\theta^{(k)}, \sigma_\rho^{(k)}, \sigma_E^{(k)} | X, Y), \quad (16)$$

$$\theta_{\text{MAP}} = \theta^{(k_{\text{MAP}})} \quad (17)$$

- Gaussian Model: fit the samples with

$$P(\theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^N \det \Sigma}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\theta - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1}(\theta - \mu)}, \quad (18)$$

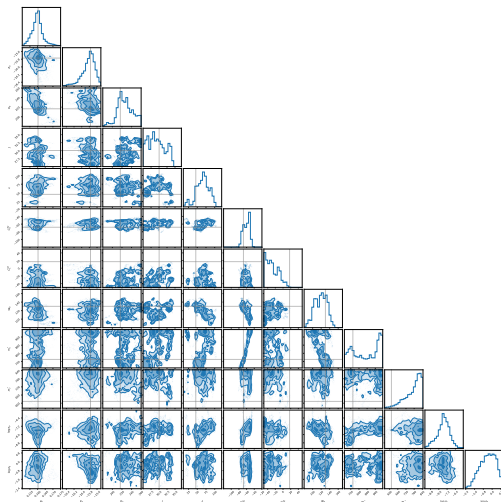
$$\theta_G = \mu \pm (\operatorname{diag} \Sigma)^{1/2}. \quad (19)$$

Results I

Setup

- Input nuclei: ^{16}O , ^{40}Ca , ^{48}Ca
- $(r_i, \rho_{ni}, \rho_{pi})$ number: 3×100
Randomly distributed on $0 < r < 10 \text{ fm}$
- Add noise to the input data: no
- EDF used to produce input: SkM*
- Final sample size: $\sim 10^4$
- Prediction target: ^{208}Pb

Results II



Grey line: accurate results.

Results III

Fitting quality

$$\|\rho_n - \rho_{n,\theta}\| \text{ (fm}^{-3}\text{)}$$

(N,Z)	Gaussian	MAP
(8,8)	0.000142	0.000017
(20,20)	0.000219	0.000090
(28,20)	0.000519	0.000159

$$|E_{tot} - E_{tot,\theta}| \text{ (MeV)}$$

(N,Z)	Gaussian	MAP
(8,8)	1.587	0.068
(20,20)	2.228	0.012
(28,20)	1.854	0.043

$$\|\rho_p - \rho_{p,\theta}\| \text{ (fm}^{-3}\text{)}$$

(N,Z)	Gaussian	MAP
(8,8)	0.000141	0.000033
(20,20)	0.000223	0.000067
(28,20)	0.000406	0.000307

$$\|\rho - \rho_\theta\| = \frac{\sum_i |\rho_{ti} - t(r_i)| \rho_{ti} r_i^2}{\sum_i \rho_{ti} r_i^2}. \quad (20)$$

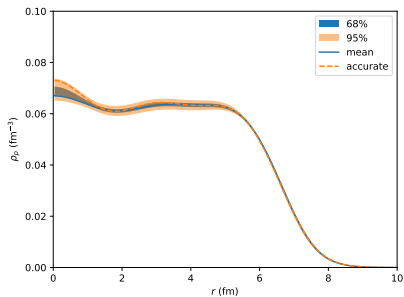
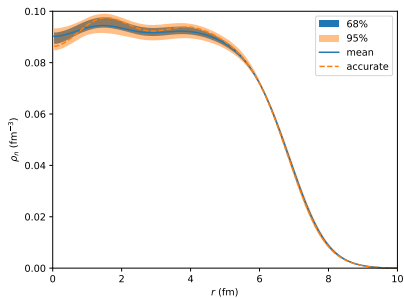
Results IV

Prediction: nuclear matter

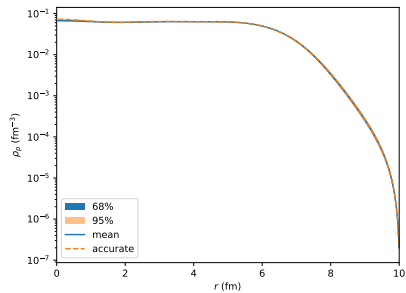
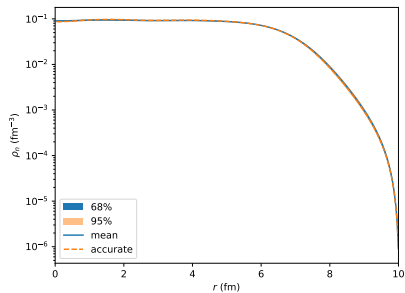
Name	accurate	Gaussain	MAP
ρ_0	0.160	0.160 ± 0.004	0.161
E_0	-15.770	-15.821 ± 0.167	-15.771
K_0	216.596	226.648 ± 15.722	216.287
J	30.033	29.262 ± 2.564	25.571
L	45.778	65.306 ± 18.603	47.186

Results V

Prediction: ^{208}Pb



Results VI



Results VII

$$E_{tot}(\text{accurate}) = -1626.550 \text{ MeV}$$

$$E_{tot}(\text{mean}) = -1633.098 \text{ MeV}$$

$$E_{tot}(68\%) = -1653.691 - -1628.636 \text{ MeV}$$

$$E_{tot}(95\%) = -1668.992 - -1612.193 \text{ MeV}$$

Summary

Topic: fixing Skyrme parameters from densities.

Method: Bayesian analysis

Current status: The model

- finds parameters fitting nicely with input;
- predicts nuclear matter and ^{208}Pb properties.

Next step: improve the sampling speed.